eas fugere existimamus. From which Description, they seem to be a kind of Plant-Animal that adheres to a Rock, and these small *fibres* or threads which we have described, seem to have been the Vessels which ('tis very probable) were very much bigger whil'st the *Interstitia* were fill'd (as he affirms) with a mucous, pulpy or fleshy substance; but upon the drying were shrunk into the bigness they now appear.

The texture of it is such, that I have not yet met with any other body in the world that has the like, but onely one of a larger sort of Sponge (which is preserv'd in the *Museum Harveanum* belonging to the most Illustrious and most learned Society of the *Physicians* of *London*) which is of a horney, or rather of a *petrify'd* substance. And of this indeed, the texture and make is exactly the same with common Sponges, but onely that both the holes and the *fibres*, or texture of it is exceedingly much bigger, for some of the holes were above an Inch and half over, and the *fibres* and *texture* of it was bigg enough to be distinguished easily with ones eye, but conspicuously with an ordinary single *Microscope*. And these indeed, seem'd to have been the habitation of some Animal; and examining *Aristotle*, I find a very consonant account hereunto, namely, that he had known a certain little Animal, call'd *Pinnothera*, like a Spider, to be bred in those caverns of a Sponge, from within which, by opening and closing those holes, he insnares and catches the little Fishes; and in another place he says, That 'tis very confidently reported, that there are certain Moths or Worms that reside in the cavities of a Sponge, and are there nourished: Notwithstanding all which Histories, I think it well worth the enquiring into the History and nature of a Sponge, it seeming to promise some information of the Vessels in Animal substances, which (by reason of the solidity of the interserted flesh that is not easily remov'd, without destroying also those interspers'd Vessels) are hitherto undiscover'd; whereas here in a Sponge, the *Parenchyma*, it seems, is but a kind of mucous gelly, which is very easily and cleerly wash'd away.

The reason that makes me imagine, that there may probably be some such texture in Animal substances, is, that examining the texture of the filaments of tann'd Leather, I find it to be much of the same nature and strength of a Sponge; and with my *Microscope*, I have observ'd many such joints and knobs, as I have described in Sponges, the *fibres* also in the hollow of several sorts of Bones, after the Marrow has been remov'd, I have found somewhat to resemble this texture, though, I confess, I never yet found any texture exactly the same, nor any for curiosity comparable to it.

The filaments of it are much smaller then those of Silk, and through the *Microscope* appear very neer as transparent, nay, some parts of them I have observ'd much more.

Having examin'd also several kinds of Mushroms, I finde their texture to be somewhat of this kind, that is, to consist of an infinite company of small filaments, every way contex'd and woven together, so as to make a kind of cloth, and more particularly, examining a piece of Touch-wood (which is a kind of *Jews-ear*, or Mushrom, growing here in *England* also, on

on several sorts of Trees, such as Elders, Maples commonly call'd by the name of *Spunk*; but that sold in Shops, is brought from beyond Seas) I foun exceeding delicate texture: For the substance of the naked eye, and may be stretch'd any way, exactly of *Chamois* Leather, or wash'd Leather, but it is of hew, and nothing neer so strong; but examining it I found it of somewhat another make then any whereas both *Chamois*, and all other kinds of Leath consist of an infinite company of filaments, somewh woven one within another, that is, of bigger parts or smaller branchings that grow out of them; or like where each of the larger Ropes by degrees seem to many smaller Cords, and each of those Cords int those Lines into Threads, *&c.* and these strangely woven one within another: The texture of this more like that of a Lock or a Fleece of Wool, for it number of small filaments, all of them, as farr as I c same bigness like those of a Sponge, but that the *fi* not a twentieth part of the bigness of those of a Spon so plainly perceive their joints, or their manner of int as farr as I was able to discern with that *Microscope* I have some kind of resemblance, but the joints are n nor without much trouble visible.

The filaments I could plainly enough perceive to b drical, transparent bodies, and to cross each other eve were not more seem'd to lie *horizontally* then *perpend* way, so that it is somewhat difficult to conceive ho in that manner. By tearing off a small piece of it, ragged edge, I could among several of those *fibres* p that is, one of those hairs split into two, each of the fa other out of which they seem'd to grow, but havi opportunity of examining their manner of growth, I firm any thing of them.

But to proceed, The swelling of Sponges upon we of the Water in it above the surface of the Water both from the same cause, of which an account is sixth Observation.

The substance of them indeed, has so many excelle to be met with in any other body in the world, tha dered that so little use is made of it, and those one certainly, if it were well consider'd, it would afford veniencies.

That use which the Divers are said to make of very strange, but having made trial of it my self, by d of it in very good Sallet-oyl, and putting it in my mo ing my mouth and nose under water, I could not find